

FTR

Testimony Concerning HB 5361
The Insurance and Real Estate Committee, February 10, 2015
Kerri Ann Hofer

I would like to thank the Insurance and Real Estate Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5361 An Act Concerning the Use of the Breed of Dog as an Underwriting Factor for Homeowners and Tenants Insurance Policies.

As states across the country are overturning outdated Breed Specific Legislation (BSL), insurance companies must be made to do the same. As you are aware, Connecticut has already enacted a law prohibiting municipalities from adopting breed-specific ordinances — but many Connecticut families still can't adopt a dog that looks like it might be a Pit Bull-type dog because of restrictions from their insurance companies.

This is repeatedly given as the reason friendly dogs are surrendered to local shelters and rescues, and is the sole reason others give as not being able to adopt the otherwise perfect dog of their choice.

It is no secret that our local shelters and rescues have a surplus of beautiful, friendly, adoptable Pit Bull type dogs. Please help those of us who volunteer in shelters and with local rescues to have the opportunity to place some of these great pets in otherwise qualified responsible homes by removing the significant insurance barrier. Please adopt HB 5361 prohibiting insurance companies from using Dog Breed as a factor in the cost or availability of insurance in Connecticut.

On behalf of the rescue community, I thank State Representative Brenda Kupchick for introducing this important bill.

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